



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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RENEE CIPRIANO, DIRECTOR

(217) 524-1663

June 20, 2002

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



367041

Mr. Bill Bolen
Chief, Response Section II
Emergency Response Branch
United States Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Bolen:

I am requesting the Region 5 Offices of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) assign an On-Scene Coordinator to review the attached Preliminary Assessment, and determine if a time critical removal assessment and removal action is warranted at the Vessel Slips and Calumet River adjacent to the former Wisconsin Steel Works (WSW) site located in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.

In June 2000, members of a local community group petitioned U.S. EPA Region 5 to conduct a Preliminary Assessment on the sediments in the north and south vessel slips that served the former WSW site. Subsequent to the petition, U.S. EPA tasked the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) to conduct the investigation on the petitioned area. In November 2000, Illinois EPA collected sediment samples from the vessel slips and from the Calumet River adjacent to the WSW site.

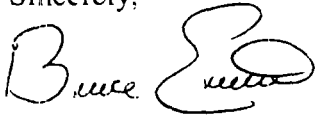
The WSW facility was the location of steel production since 1875. The facility operated until 1980 when it was under the ownership of International Harvester. On December 20, 1996, Illinois EPA and Navistar (International Harvester) entered into a cooperative agreement to address environmental concerns at the WSW site. The cooperative agreement, however, does not include the vessel slips and areas along the Calumet River adjacent to the site. Currently Navistar is known as International Truck and Engine Corporation.

The results of the sampling from November 2000 sampling event indicate that significant levels of Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB), Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH), and inorganic contamination exist within the sediments of both vessel slips. The Preliminary Assessment also determined that the contaminated sediments within the vessel slips might be adversely impacting the sediments of the Calumet River.

GEORGE H. RYAN, GOVERNOR

As always, the Illinois EPA will provide any assistance to U.S. EPA regarding this matter. Thank you for the consideration and we look forward to working with U.S. EPA in this and future removal activities. I hope to hear back from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Everetts". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "B" and "E".

Bruce Everetts
Office of Site Evaluation
Division of Remediation Management
Bureau of Land

bcc: Division File w/o attachments
Mark Wagner, IEPA/DRM/OSE, w/o attachments